



TENNESSEE
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

P.O. Box 41505
Nashville, TN 37204-1505
1-800-626-0987
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

cooperating with
Tennessee
Department
of Agriculture



FARM FACTS

GENE DANEKAS
STATE STATISTICIAN

RELEASED: FEBRUARY 22, 2000 VOL. 00 NO. 04
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

CROP PRODUCTION VALUE CONTINUES DECLINE

The value of Tennessee's principal crops was down 17 percent from 1998 to \$879 million. Four of the State's top five crops in 1999 had lower marketing average prices than the previous year. A slight price increase from 1998 pushed **tobacco** ahead of hay, as the highest valued crop for the 1999 season at \$217 million. The remaining crops ranked as follows: **hay**, \$195 million; **cotton** and **cottonseed**, \$142 million; **corn**, \$113 million; and **soybeans**, \$102 million.

Tobacco, at \$217 million, was down slightly but still took over as the number one crop in 1999. Tobacco accounted for 25 percent of the State's total value of principal crops. An increase of almost 100,000 acres harvested helped **hay** achieve Tennessee's number two position. Producers received an average of \$52 per ton during 1999, a 7 percent decrease compared with 1998. **Alfalfa** hay prices decreased 3 percent, while all **other** hay prices decreased 7 percent.

Despite the lowest prices since 1974, **cotton's** value of production ranking remains number three. Harvested acreage, at 565,000, is the highest for the State since 1995. Lint was valued at \$124 million with cottonseed producing an additional \$17.7 million. The combined value of cotton lint and seed accounted for 16 percent of the State's total value of principal crops. Cotton prices fell from 61.9 cents per pound in 1998 to 43.8 cents per pound in 1999. Tennessee's **corn** crop at \$113 million, moved from fifth place in 1998 to fourth for 1999. The corn crop value decreased 12 percent from 1998. Tennessee farmers harvested 570 thousand acres for grain in 1999.

Tennessee's **soybean** crop, at \$102 million, dropped from the number four spot in 1998 to the fifth valued crop. This represented a 54 percent decline in value compared to 1998. Soybean prices are the lowest since 1975. Soybeans accounted for 12 percent of the State's total value of principal crops. Other crops values of interest in Tennessee included **wheat**, \$41.3 million; **tomatoes**, \$24.0 million; **snapbeans**, \$8.76 million; **sorghum**, \$2.14 million; **apples**, \$1.73 million; and **peaches**, \$1.41 million.

CROP VALUES: TENNESSEE, 1998-1999

Crop	Unit	Average Price Per Unit		Value of Production	
		1998	1999 ¹	1998	1999 ¹
		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
TENNESSEE					
Apples	lb.	.222	.217	2,000	1,734
Corn for grain	bu.	2.13	1.95	126,778	113,373
Cotton	lb.	.619	.438	162,228	124,042
Cottonseed	ton	131.00	78.00	26,855	17,706
Grain Sorghum	bu.	1.91	1.70	2,139	2,142
Hay, All	ton	56.00	52.00	221,585	195,416
Alfalfa	ton	115.00	112.00	13,685	10,416
All Other	ton	54.00	50.00	207,900	185,000
Peaches	lb.	.450	.470	1,350	1,410
Soybeans	bu.	5.37	4.75	188,433	101,745
Tobacco, All	lb.	1.963	1.966	218,097	217,429
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.61	2.25	39,594	41,310
Tomatoes, Fresh Market	cwt.	38.00	29.00	32,300	24,012
Snapbeans, Fresh Market	cwt.	31.40	28.80	8,761	8,755

¹ Average to January 1, 2000.

POULTRY: INVENTORY AND VALUE, TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 1, 1998-1999

Species	Tennessee			United States		
	1998	1999	% Prev. Year	1998	1999	% Prev. Year
	1,000			1,000		
Chickens, excluding broilers	2,255	2,155	96	425,045	436,326	103
Layers 1 Year Old & Older	510	240	47	151,298	151,914	100
Layers 20 Wks. Old But Less Than 1 Year Old	780	941	85	170,420	177,391	99
Total Layers	1,290	1,181	92	321,718	329,718	102
Pullets 13 Weeks Old and Older But Less Than 20 Weeks	360	367	102	39,664	38,587	97
Pullets Chicks and Pullets Under 13 Weeks of Age	475	437	92	55,981	58,775	105
Other Chickens	130	170	118	7,682	9,659	102
Chickens, excluding broilers: Value per Head ¹	4.90	5.80	118	2.69	2.65	99
Total value	11,050	12,499	113	1,143,835	1,154,840	101

¹ Dollars

FIRST AQUACULTURE CENSUS CATCHES NEARLY \$1 BILLION IN SALES: The Nation's first census of aquaculture revealed interesting facts—and confirmed some expectations—about one of agriculture's fastest growing sectors. The 1998 Census of Aquaculture provides a wide variety of data relating to methods of production, sources of water, sales and sale outlets, cooperative agreements and contracts, sizes of operation based on sales, and aquaculture distributed for restoration or conservation purposes. The census of aquaculture also contains information about food fish, baitfish, mollusks, crustaceans, ornamental fish, sport/game fish, algae and sea vegetables, and other fish and aquacultural products. To discover the wealth of aquaculture and other agricultural statistics available from NASS, including hundreds of commodity production and price reports, or to review a full catalog of NASS products and services, visit the NASS Home Page at www.usda.gov/nass/.

This special census provided the first detailed picture of the aquaculture industry in Tennessee and revealed that the value of domestic aquaculture products sold in Tennessee during 1998 was \$3.9 million dollars. Food fish (e.g., catfish and trout) accounted for only a fourth of the aquaculture sales, but 92 percent of the farms producing aquaculture. Baitfish, ornamental fish, crustaceans, and other animal aquaculture accounts for the remaining three-fourths of total sales.

U.S. CATFISH VALUE OF SALES UP 3 PERCENT FROM 1998: Catfish growers in the 13 selected States had sales of 488 million dollars during 1999, up 3 percent from the previous year. The top four States, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas, and Louisiana accounted for 96 percent of the U. S. total sales. Nationwide sales of all foodsize fish increased 4 percent from 1998 to 464 million dollars. Fingerlings and fry sales totaled 18.5 million dollars, a decrease of 10 percent from 1998. Sales of stockers totaled 3.64 million dollars in 1999, down from the 7.89 million dollars sold the previous year.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 95 percent of the total sales of foodsize fish while 78 percent of the stocker sales were to other producers. The remainder were sold for recreational use, to live haulers, or for retail, government, or other uses.

U.S. TROUT VALUE OF SALES INCREASED 4 PERCENT FROM 1998: The total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers in the 20 selected States reached 76.9 million dollars during 1999, an increase of 4 percent from 1998. The State of Idaho had almost half the total value. For the Nation, sales of fish totaled 72.0 million dollars for 1999, while egg sales totaled 4.93 million dollars. Tennessee had 17 trout operations with total value of sales at 418 thousand dollars in 1999.

U.S. WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT: Shorn wool production in the United States during 1999 was 46.5 million pounds, down 5 percent from 1998. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.15 million head, a decrease of 4 percent from 1998. The average price paid for wool sold in 1999 was \$0.38 per pound for a total value of \$17.9 million dollars, down 39 percent from \$29.4 million dollars in 1998.

Mohair production in the three major producing states (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas) during 1999 was 2.90 million pounds, down 43 percent from 1998. Goats and kids clipped, at 444,000 head, was down 37 percent from 1998. Average weight per clip was 6.5 pounds compared with 7.2 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair was \$10.0 million dollars, down 20 percent from 1998.

U.S. SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN 3 PERCENT: All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2000, totaled 7.03 million head, down 3 percent from 1999 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has

declined since 1942 when it reached a peak of 56.2 million head. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.16 million head on January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from 5.30 million head on January 1, 1999. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.23 million head, were 2 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2000, totaled 1.86 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 1999. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 26 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 1999 lamb crop of 4.72 million head was down 6 percent from 1998 to a new record low. The 1999 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1999, compared with 110 in 1998. The number of operations with sheep during 1999 totaled 66,800, down 3 percent from 1998 and 8 percent from 1997.

U.S. GENERAL REFRIGERATED WAREHOUSE CAPACITY UP 6 PERCENT: General refrigerated storage capacity in the United States totaled 2.90 billion gross cubic feet on October 1, 1999, an increase of 6 percent since the previous survey was conducted two years ago. While most of the increase was due to new construction, some was due to the increased survey coverage of existing warehouses. This was the 41st biennial survey of refrigerated warehouses. The five States with the largest gross general warehouse capacity (million cubic feet) were: California with 393; Florida 233; Washington, 187; Wisconsin and Texas each had 155. Usable refrigerated space in general storages was 2.28 billion cubic feet, or 79 percent of the gross space. Usable freezer space was 78 percent of the usable refrigerated space with the remaining 22 percent used as cooler space. Convertible refrigerated space was classified as usable freezer space. Public general warehouse capacity totaled 2.15 billion gross cubic feet in 1999, accounting for 74 percent of the general storage. Public general storage capacity has increased 36 percent since 1991 and is over twice the capacity of 1981.

Private and semi-private general warehouse capacity totaled 757 million gross cubic feet, or 26 percent of the general gross refrigerated space. Apple and pear storage totaled 702 million gross cubic feet, up slightly from October 1, 1997. Controlled atmosphere (CA) capacity totaled 155 million bushels, up 3 percent from 1997. The State of Washington had 80 percent of the Nation's CA capacity.

BROILER EGGS SET IN 15 SELECTED STATES DOWN 1 PERCENT: Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 178 million eggs during the week ending February 12, 2000. This was down 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 5 PERCENT: Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 146 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 12, 2000. Placements were up 5 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through February 12, 2000, were 870 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

TENNESSEE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

The number of cattle operations in Tennessee during 1999 decreased 4 percent from the previous year. The number of operations with cattle and calves decreased by 2,000 to 53,000. The greatest percent change occurred in the hog operations, where 500 operations in Tennessee were lost.

LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS¹: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, 1998 & 1999

Class	Tennessee Operations			United States Operations		
	1998	1999	1999/1998	1998	1999	1999/1998
	Number		Percent	Number		Percent
All cattle and calves	55,000	53,000	96	1,115,650	1,095,960	98
Beef cows ²	47,000	46,000	98	855,460	843,230	99
Milk cows	2,000	1,800	90	117,180	111,220	95
All Hogs	2,200	1,700	77	113,830	98,460	86
Sheep	800	³		68,550	66,800	97

¹ An operation is any place that has one or more of the species on hand anytime during the year. ² Included in operations with cattle. ³ Tennessee not published separately beginning in 1999.

Fact or Opinion?

Which would you choose to make decisions that affect your farm or ranch?

Make the facts *known*. Respond to the USDA's 1999 agricultural economic surveys.

